

## **AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION:**

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 3, line 30 with the following replacement paragraph:

--It is advantageous, if compositions simply doped using rare earth metals, in particular La or ~~Nb~~ Nd, are used as PZT basic materials.--.

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 1, line 19 with the following replacement paragraph:

--Previous technical approaches are predominantly based on ceramic compounds of a Perovskite-type structure of the general formula  $ABO_3$ , the piezoelectric properties being manifested in the ferroelectric state. Lead-zirconate titanate ceramics  $Pb(Zr_{1-x}Ti_x)O_3$  (PZT), modified by certain additives (~~PZT~~), have proven to be particularly advantageous. Noble metal internal electrodes applied using serigraphic methods are located between ceramic layers manufactured using typical ceramic foil technology. When appropriate additives or dopants are used, PZT-based piezoelectric ceramics have an excellent combination of properties, such as high temperature resistance, a high piezoelectric charge constant, high Curie temperature, low dielectric constant, and low coercive field intensity.--.

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 3, line 9 with the following replacement paragraph:

--It is an object of the invention to allow for the manufacture of a low-sintering PZT-based piezoceramic having comparable or improved electromagnetic properties compared to conventional ceramics of this type. A sintering temperature in the range of 850°C to 950°C may be obtained.--.